

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2002 LB 1309

was a great thing. I voted for that. I supported that. But then, all of a sudden, we don't have any more money so we have to take that away. They are still there. They are still operating. The tax dollars are still paying for those institutions. The only thing is they moved it back to...to their property tax. I remember a couple of years...two years ago I introduced a bill in Education Committee to have countywide school districts, so we'd have had 93 school districts in the state rather than how many we have now, I don't know, hundreds. Well, I tell you what. I ducked from one hall to the other for about two weeks after I introduced that bill because every school board president and school superintendent in the state was either e-mailing me or chasing me down the halls saying what in the world are you trying to do to education in this state? It reminded me of it when Senator Schimek was talking about maybe merging some county governments together. I don't know why that wouldn't work but you probably...the cost of that would probably keep going up too. That's the way things are. And do we really want a full-blown reduction in all our revenues in this state? Do we want...do we want to sacrifice things that we...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...we really enjoy? I guess that's up to us and we're all accountable to 30 some thousand people. And I believe that probably the number one, the number one taxation, that I hear anyway, is the property taxes and how much it costs a young family to send their kids to school. Those are the two things; property taxes and schools. And what are they? One helps the other and, hopefully,...you know, I didn't get much of an education and that was probably my own fault but I certainly seen to that my children got all the education they wanted and, hopefully, my grandchildren, too, will be able to...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...to witness that, but I..I don't want it to be primarily on the backs of...of counties or local governments and I want the state to help as much as they can. Thank you.